

# The Big Stone Gap Post.

VOL. XIX,

BIG STONE GAP, WISE COUNTY, VA., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1911.

No. 61

## Receivers Appointed.

For the Empire Coal Land Corporation.

Last week Judge H. A. W. Skeen, of this county, appointed A. Kyle Morison and H. Hardaway receivers of the court for the Empire Coal Land corporation. This corporation has assets upon the present valuation of over a million dollars, and it is asserted that the property is worth from three to five million dollars.

The corporation became financially embarrassed during the panic of 1907, and since that time it has been unable to raise sufficient funds to carry out the developments then under way.

This company owns about 15,000 acres of coal lands in Tazewell county, Virginia, near Richlands. The coal mines and coking plants are connected with the Norfolk and Western railway at Richlands by a branch line about six miles long.

### Committee Named.

A committee composed of G. L. A. Ayers, Hon. R. T. Irvine and Hon. C. B. Slomp was recently appointed by the bondholders for the purpose of establishing and financing the property, and at the instance of the committee the receivers were applied for and appointed by the court.

It is understood that the committee has under way large plans for a complete reorganization of the property, and that the reorganization plans include all the creditors of the corporation, the unsecured creditors as well as the bondholders.

It appears that the corporation owes in round numbers \$1,100,000, of which \$825,000 is secured by prior liens created when the corporation was organized in the fall of 1907.

A. Kyle Morison, one of the receivers, is a member of the law firm of Irvine and Morison, at this place, and was for a number of years connected with the legal department of the Carolina, Clinchfield & Ohio railway. He is personally interested in the securities of the Empire corporation, and at various times has actively cooperated with its financial affairs.

H. Hardaway, the other receiver, is one of the best known coal and coke operators in Southwest Virginia. He was for a number of years in charge of the Virginia Iron, Coal and company's plant at Toms Creek and later was general manager of the Cranes Nest Coal & Coke company in this county. For the last few years he has given his time exclusively to his own affairs.

The receivers have taken charge of the property and will continue to operate it until a reorganization is perfected.

### BENHAM LOCALS.

J. C. Clark, store manager, is at home with gripe, and John Huff and Jesse Pace are taking care of the store in his absence.

S. G. Boone is visiting his family in Big Stone Gap.

R. H. Brazel went to Tazewell Saturday on business for the company.

Floyd Becket returned Sunday from a visit to Reekers, Va.

H. H. Yost, former carpenter, foreman, moved to Whitesburg last week.

Mrs. Thomas Miller is spending the month with her mother at Wytheville, Va.

Hensley Marum moved to camp a few days ago from Appalachia.

George Bibb has been called to Goshen, Va., on account of the serious illness of his father.

Perry Dye spent last week at his home in Gardner, Va.

The Ladies Club welcomes a new member, Mrs. O. B. Gilly.

Mrs. J. L. Wells, of Big Stone Gap, is expected to visit camp the latter part of this week.

Heavy rains last week caused much delay in the work on the railroad, as well as the construction work in camp.

## Civic League Column

EDITED BY PRESS COMMITTEE.

Meetings Second Friday of Each Month.

Since Mr. Knight has "called time" on us this issue in the matter of space, we are compelled to hold over until a time of dearth of copy in the editorial sanctum a most excellent article by Clifton F. Hodge, Professor of Biology in Clark University, in which he outlines a simple plan by which a community may be easily rid of the house fly, the "typhoid fly." We hope to be able to publish the clipping in our next issue.

Apocryphal of the house domestic, we clip the following from a current magazine.

### The Housewife and the Fly.

"Don't come into my parlor," said the Housewife to the Fly.

There's a screen at every window, and your entrance is every where.

There are microbes in your footsteps and a crust upon your head.

Which, if not so infectious, would fill out hearts with dread.

"You carry germs of typhoid and spread consumption's lines."

And our sanitary teachers paint your crimes in language plain.

Don't come into my parlor, and for safety I would pray.

If you walked into my dining room upon some sunny day.

"There are seeds of the distemper hidden in your tiny wings,

And your many feet have traveled over countless filthy things.

You're a menace to our safety, you are a pestiferous thing.

And the mischief you accomplish would the bravest heart appal.

"If you enter, I have poison all prepared for you to eat."

And paper spread to catch your greedy, swollen wings and feet.

I will poison, trap or smash you if you do not leave my door.

For our modern sanitation will endure your calls no more."

In the city of Atlanta, Ga., the municipal authorities have undertaken an ant-fly campaign.

The first step was taken by the board of health, which has recommended to the city council an ordinance providing that

"all persons, firms or corporations, their agents or their employees, in charge of or working at meat markets, fish markets, restaurants, bakeries, retail grocery stores, and milk depots, where articles of food are kept or sold or offered for sale, shall thoroughly and securely screen all doors, windows or other openings into such place as to prevent the ingress of flies or other insects thereto."

It is to be doubted that such an ordinance could produce desired results. However, well protected by screens the doors of the establishments mentioned might be, the frequent opening of them would make it impossible to exclude flies.

A more effective ordinance would be one requiring all articles of food that are exposed for sale to be protected against flies by means of screens made to fit receptacles containing them.

We are glad to note that some of our citizens of our sister city of Bristol are awakening to a realization of the filthy condition of their dual city.

A few weeks ago an earnest appeal was made to the Sycamore Shells Chapter of the D. A. R. for assistance in beautifying the city by Mr. Bushong, of the Civic Improvement Department of the Bristol Board of Trade. Mr. Bushong's letter brought forth the following spirited reply from Mrs. Oarrington, the Historian of the Chapter:

In behalf of the Daughters of the American Revolution, I thank Mr. Bushong for his complimentary appeal to the Sycamore Shells Chapter for assistance in beautifying our town—though this work is not in our province (except personally).

We are ever ready with willing hands to undertake a work so closely allied to God's house. We may not accomplish much in the beginning, but if we can create a contagion, the revolution will go on to a good purpose and mayhap indefinitely.

To beautify our dual city in its present filthy condition, would be like decorating a corpse with a hobbie skirt and French hood.

There are some beautifully located vacant lots in the very heart of the city, whereon the owners should light bonfires with the waste paper, rags and other questionable trash to illustrate the square adjoining our beautiful postoffice building, most conspicuous, but not the filthiest.

The cleaning of these vacant lots should be compulsory by the city ordinance. The board of health officials would do well to visit the rear of every business house on State street, and see for themselves the prevailing conditions. If the stagnant pools of water throughout the city can not be filled up or dried up, better plant water lilies and water hyacinths than allow their use for the concealment of dead fowls and departed cats—a menace to the cities' health and disgrace to its sanitation. This looks terrible in print, but it is a condition that confronts us.

Let the street commissioner visit the back alleys, and behold the Pelion on top of the cans, and rags, and ashes. Why is there not a law to keep the alleys clean and open, as passage ways, and why not those owning or renting property on the alleys put such garbage in barrels placed convenient for depositing such trash and have it hauled away themselves, since the corporation have declared the city was poor to run a garbage cart system. First, it needs a thorough spring cleaning—before it will be ready for decorating. If the corporations will attend to the above mentioned duties, we will decorate our public squares and lots with flowers and shrubs and grass, for nothing appeals so restfully to tired feeling and weary hearts, as beautiful flowers and green grass. God's forethought for His tired children.

Some of our colored people are already making preparations to compete for prizes for well kept yards. Will Dykes, the janitor of the Minor building, deserves special mention for having cleaned up his yard and premises so nicely within the past few days.

Two little boys were seen picking up scraps of paper on a vacant lot not long ago and burning them.

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## Faculty

For Summer Normal to be Held in Big Stone Gap.

The following faculty has been secured for the Virginia State Summer Institute to be held at Big Stone Gap from June 27 to July 28:

Conductor—J. N. Hillman.

Local Manager—H. H. Young.

Reading and Primary Methods—Miss Annabel Wood, Normal Teacher, Woodlawn High School, Woodlawn, Va.

Arithmetic—Mr. R. M. Dougherty, Principal Appalachia High School, Appalachia, Va.

English Grammar—Miss Lavina Critz, Teacher Roanoke High School, Roanoke, Va.

English Grammar, Composition and Literature—Miss Willie London, Teacher Roanoke High School, Roanoke, Va.

Political Geography—Mr. Geo. E. Bennett, Principal Anderson School, Petersburg, Va.

United States History—Mr. R. M. Addington, Principal Schools, Nickelsville, Va.

Virginia History—Mr. J. E. Carter, Principal Dryden High School, Dryden, Va.

Civil Government—Mr. J. H. Russell, Johns Hopkins University.

Physiology and Hygiene—Miss Jessie P. Niedermaier, Teacher Clintwood High School, Clintwood, Va.

Drawing—Mrs. Eula Young Morrison, Big Stone Gap, Va.

Theory and Practice—Mr. H. E. Bennett, Head of Department of Education and Philosophy, William and Mary College, Williamsburg, Va.

Algebra—Mr. J. N. Hillman, Division Superintendent Wise County, Coeburn, Va.

Physical Geography and Agriculture—Mr. Arthur W. St. Clair, Principal Albemarle High School, Albemarle, N. C.

English History and Spelling—Miss Archie Swanson, Teacher Whitmell High School, Dry Fork, Va.

Domestic Science and Manual Training—Miss Louise Lovell, Teacher Domestic Science, Driver Agricultural High School, Driver, Va.

### COAL PRODUCTION.

St. Paul, Va., April 18.—Coal production in this field is not suffering from slow markets as in other Southern mining sections. A large area in the Carolina cotton mill districts draw fuel from this field, and a number of railroads obtain engine coal here. The output of the principal producers, the Clinchfield Coal Corporation, is contracted for up to the present capacity of the mines, but additional business can soon be taken on with the mine extension now under way.

The Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railway, which serves this district in the Southern markets, will this week place an order for five additional type locomotives similar to those already in use by the company, and for two freight engines of the Mikado type. The former weighs about 400,000 pounds each, exclusive of tender, having a tractive power of 77,000 pounds. The latter will weigh 234,000 each, with a tractive power of 45,000 pounds.

The interior will be finished throughout in hardwood, and the house, which will have a steam heating plant installed, will cost about \$50,000.

in for it and began his preparations to leave. The residents there told him he was going too soon; to stay and unload on some easterner, who would, in time, come and buy. Mr. Robinson knew of a number who had been waiting a long time to catch a sucker and were impoverished by the wait, concluded to get out while he had some money left.

So last week they arrived here and Mr. Robinson is looking for a farm. He says that he knew when he had enough. He says that it is a first rate country to go for one's health, but to go there and live as a farmer it would be sheer folly. Fruit grows in abundance, but it is specked and unfit for market. He further says that it does not pay to grow timothy hay that brings \$12 a ton on \$300 an acre land. The price of eggs there is high, but the hens don't lay.

Mr. Robinson's experience, cost, he says, about \$3,000, and he is back in old Virginia to make back what he lost to the land sharks of that glorious State of Washington.

This experience is a true one and should give an impetus to the "Back Home" movement now working in the South. Those who left their homes in the Southern States should come back to see how the country has improved and how easy it is to make a living on the farms that were once red clay, worn out washed hills. Come on back, boys, come "back home."

### FRITZI SCHEFF TO HAVE 40-ROOM VIRGINIA HOME.

Big Stone Gap Structure Will Also Have Steam Heating Plant.

Philadelphia, Pa., April 14.—Madame Fritzi Scheff-Fox, the comic opera star, is to become a resident of Big Stone Gap, Va., in the intervals between her engagements on the stage.

She is planning to build one of the handsomest mansions in the Old Dominion, plans for which were prepared by George H. Gray, of Louisville, Ky. Blue prints of these have been sent to the Ploverman Construction Company, of this city, for estimates, and were placed upon the boards for that purpose Wednesday.

They provide for a structure of stone and stucco two stories high, with an attic, having a frontage of 100 feet and a depth of 57 feet, and containing forty rooms.

The interior will be finished throughout in hardwood, and the house, which will have a steam heating plant installed, will cost about \$50,000.

### SLEMP GETS GOOD ASSIGNMENTS.

Congressman Slemp, of this district, got entirely new committees in the assignment of positions in the House of Representatives.

Last year he was on the committees on census and naval affairs. This year he is assigned to the committee on mines and mining; election of president, vice-president and representatives in congress; and expenditures in the postoffice department. His assignments this year are more important committees than he had before, but of course he is in the minority. He is about the only Republican from the South to receive an important committee assignment.

### NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Big Stone Gap & Powell's Valley Railway Co., to be held at the office of the company in the town of Big Stone Gap, Wise County, Va., on Thursday, the fourth day of May, nineteen hundred and eleven.

All stockholders are earnestly requested to be present at said meeting.

G. T. BOSTWICK, Secretary.

### FOR SALE.

Six room dwelling; two halls, two porches, bathroom, all modern, and cement cellar; partly finished in oak; ideal location; corner West First Street and Wyandotte Avenue. Price \$3200; one-third cash; balance to suit purchaser. Title guaranteed perfect. See A. L. WITT, Mech 114 Intermont Building